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# Allen-Rossi as 007s? Sounds Silly—and Is

By ANN GUARINO

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The "Hello Dere" boys, Marty Allen and Steve Rossi, deal with international art thieves in their first screen assignment, "The Last of the Secret Agents?" and midway it's almost "Good-by Dere" for them. Not really, because the stars of the lead feature at RKO Circuit Theatres have to make the last scene or it wouldn't be a comedy.

Opening shots spoof the spy films as a note is passed from agent to agent, each bumping off the other. The boys, unwittingly



Marty Allen

"The Last of the Secret Agents?" a Paramount Pictures release in Technicolor. Produced and directed by Norman Abbott from a screenplay by Mel Tolkin based on a story by Abbott and Tolkin. Presented at RKO Circuit Theatres. Running time: 1 hour, 32 minutes.

## THE CAST:

Marty Johnson	Marty Allen
Steve Donovan	Steve Rossi
J. Frederick Duval	John Williams
Mitchell	Nancy Sinatra
Papa Leo	Lou Jacobi
Baby Max Zoffler	Carmen
Zoltan Schubach	Theo Marcuse

involved in the note-passing, are observed by the Good Guys Institute headed by a suave John Williams. He invites them to help smash an art ring called THEM. He gives the boys one weapon—an umbrella.

**BUT WHAT** an umbrella! It supposedly writes like a pen, serves as a two-way radio and as a fencing sword, shoots off steel daggers, converts to an iron maiden, and inflates like a balloon.

The production is slick, colorful and set in Paris. Director Norman Abbott, who also produced and originated the story with Mel Tolkin, keeps the action fast, but often too silly and on a sophomoric level. Sequences are inserted just for laughs: a movie-making scene with the boys jumping into Nazi uniforms to elude their pursuers, blackouts (in color) when the boys are trapped in a train compartment.

**ROSSI SINGS** two songs and his voice registers pleasantly. He shows leading-man possibilities, though his acting is self-conscious. Allen stays in character

with the image he projects on TV: big brown eyes and stand-out hair. Lou Jacobi plays the proprietor of a cafe who keeps renaming and changing the decor to attract tourist trade.

Nancy Sinatra, with a French accent, turns in a good performance as the proprietor's daughter with a big crush on Rossi. She also capably handles the title song behind the opening credits. The rest of the cast—Theo Marcuse as the art connoisseur and Carmen, a photographer's model, as his sophisticated "housekeeper"—are equally good.